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Province of British Columbia

2007/2008 STRATEGIC PLAN **ANNUAL REPORT**

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

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Great Goals for a Golden Decade

Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.

Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors.

Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.

Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

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To be a prosperous and just province, whose citizens achieve their potential and have confidence in the future.

GOVERNMENT'S CORE VALUES ARE

- **Integrity**: to make decisions in a manner that is consistent, professional, fair, transparent and balanced;
- **Fiscal Responsibility**: to implement affordable public policies;
- **Accountability**: to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and the credibility of government;
- **Respect**: to treat all citizens equitably, compassionately and respectfully; and
- **Choice**: to afford citizens the opportunity to exercise self-determination.

Letter from the Premier

2007/2008 has been an exciting year for British Columbians. Our economy continues to be one of the strongest in Canada and the celebrations have begun for the 150th anniversary of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. Communities around the province have built Spirit Squares to celebrate their heritage. These will be places of continued celebration in the years to come.

We have continued to build a new relationship with First Nations. Two historic treaties were signed with the Tsawwassen First Nation and the five Maa-Nulth First Nations, and progress was made in closing the gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians in health, education, housing and economic opportunities.

The Conversation on Health, the largest public discussion on health care in history, wrapped up. Thousands of people from all over the province participated, giving their ideas on how to strengthen our health care system within the Canada Health Act.

Climate change is a global reality. In British Columbia we have taken significant action to reduce our impact on the environment. We have set aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reductions for 2020. All ministries and Crown agencies will be carbon neutral by 2010, and we have taken steps to green the B.C. Building Code. We all need to make greener choices to fight climate change.

Early childhood education is important to giving our children a strong start in life. That is why the Province has established more than 80 StrongStart centres around British Columbia to date. By 2010 there will be 400 centres for our children and parents and caregivers to access.

Post-secondary education is a key factor in a knowledge-based economy. Every student with a B average or higher now has access to post-secondary education in British Columbia.

Investments in infrastructure, culture and education have helped to cement British Columbia's position as Canada's Asia Pacific gateway.

I am pleased with the progress that we together as British Columbians have made in keeping our province the best place on earth to live, work and visit.

Honourable Gordon Campbell,
Premier

First Nations

New Relationship with First Nations

Progress is being made toward recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal issues in British Columbia. The Transformative Change Accord, signed by First Nations, the Province, and Canada in 2005, is focusing efforts on closing the socio-economic gaps in health, education, housing and economic opportunities.

In the summer of 2007, British Columbia signed the Tripartite First Nations Health Plan with the goal of improving the health and well-being of First Nations, closing the gaps in health between First Nations and other British Columbians, and fully ensuring that First Nations are full participants in the decision-making process regarding the health of their peoples.

The needs of Aboriginal children are a priority. That is why British Columbia has embraced Jordan's Principle; to ensure that Aboriginal children receive the care they need, when they need it.

First Nations students are gaining greater access to life-long education and learning opportunities. We are moving toward closing the gap in education though the signing of 36 Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements, supporting Aboriginal Literacy programs, and by enacting legislation that recognizes First Nations jurisdiction over on-reserve schools. Additionally, the Province has established a $65-million Aboriginal post-secondary strategy and a $10-million scholarship fund.

In 2007 over $50 million was granted under the Aboriginal Housing Initiative to support the allocation of 292 units at 13 housing developments in 10 communities across the province. In addition, $500,000 has been allocated towards the Aboriginal Homeless Outreach Program.

As part of expressing reconciliation, our government is committed to concluding treaties. In 2007, legislation was passed for two historic modern-day treaties with the Tsawwassen and Maa-Nulth First Nations, representing the first urban and multi-nation treaties signed under the B.C. Treaty Process.

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t and Drink

Health and Well-Being

Our health care system faces increasing pressures and costs from an aging population, increased demands for services, and new medical technologies. In 2007/08 health funding was nearly 44 per cent of total government ministry spending. To help ensure that our health-care system is there for our children and grandchildren the Province introduced legislation in April 2008 that defines and enshrines the principles of the *Canada Health Act* and adds the principle of sustainability. This legislation will ensure that the Medical Services Plan will be administered in a manner that is fiscally sustainable and provides for British Columbians' current health-care needs without compromising the public health care system for future generations.

In April, 2008 the Province released a new edition of Toddler's First Steps, a reference guide that provides parents and caregivers of children between the ages of six months and three years of age with the most up-to-date parenting tips and child health and wellness information available. This guide will help provide parents and caregivers the tools they need to ensure that all children in B.C. are given the best start in life.

Conversation on Health

The Conversation on Health was the most wide-ranging public discussion on health in B.C.'s history. Input from across the province was gathered on how the health-care system could be strengthened within the framework of the *Canada Health Act*. Over 12,000 submissions were received from British Columbians from all walks of life. A total of 6,600 people registered for more than 70 forums in every region of the province and the website recorded almost six million 'hits'. Throughout the Conversation on Health, British Columbians told us they wanted a sustainable, accountable and transparent public health care system that ensures access to a wide range of high-quality health care and health-care providers. They also wanted more supports to promote greater responsibility through health promotion and disease prevention.

Government has started to initiate a wide-ranging number of changes and improvements to the health system including:

- Better support to citizens in making healthier choices to ensure personal health and prevention of illnesses.
- Improving population health by focusing on closing the gaps in health status for First Nation peoples and strengthening core public health functions; prevention of disease, injury and disability; strengthening environmental health; and ensuring health emergency management systems are fully in place for all citizens.

- Strengthening and increasing our health system delivery capacity in primary care, specialist care, home and community care, mental health and addiction, paramedic care, emergency medicine, in-patient acute care, and pharmaceutical services.
- Ensuring patient safety and supporting innovation to continuously improve the quality of services.
- Increasing our health human resource capacity and flexibility to meet changing patient needs.
- Strengthening our governance, planning, management and organization capacity to maximize the efficiency of the health system in delivering value for dollars invested.
- Building our information management and information technology capacity.
- Investing in our capital infrastructure.

Several pieces of health-related legislation and policy have been introduced to support these initiatives. One of these is a new *Public Health Act* that included extensive consultations with health professionals, health authorities and local governments. The new *Public Health Act* will provide ministry and public health officials with important tools to identify and address community health challenges. In addition, the *Health Professions Regulatory Reform Act* has been introduced to give British Columbians greater access to health-care professionals to help prevent and manage chronic diseases, and ensure acute care professionals are there when needed. A *Patient Care Quality Review Board Act* has been introduced to improve transparency and accountability of the Province's public health-care system through a more robust and accessible complaints process.

ActNow

ActNow BC is designed to improve the health of British Columbians through increased physical activity, healthy eating, healthy body weight, reduced use of tobacco, and healthy choices during pregnancy. ActNow BC has developed tools to make healthy choices easier for British Columbians. For example, in 2007 the ActNow BC website was launched, parent resource materials were distributed to caregivers and teachers, and environments that support physical activity were created.

In 2007 the Road to Health Community Tour was launched to help British Columbians learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and physical activity. The tour visited 19 communities across B.C. with over 85,000 people attending.

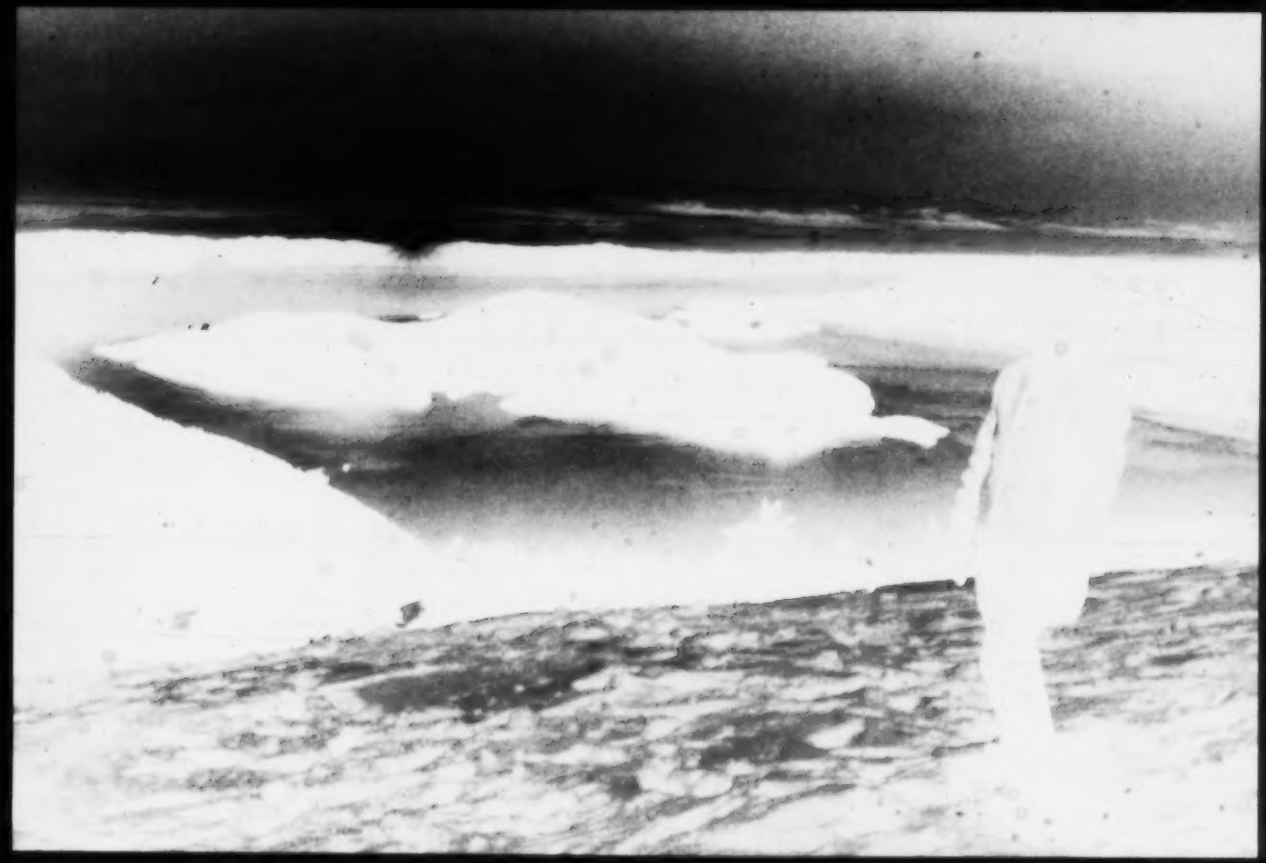
The Province is committed to continue giving children the tools they need to make healthy choices about their lifestyle. The School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program has been expanded to include 364 schools. Physical activity for students has been mandated and junk food has been eliminated in elementary schools. By September 2008 junk food sales in secondary schools will also be banned, and legislation has been passed to ban tobacco use on school grounds.

Innovation

Innovation in our public health system is a key factor in improving patient access and care across British Columbia. That is why the Province committed $100 million for the Health Innovation Fund. Through this fund, projects like the drop-in health centre in Vernon have been made possible. This centre provides access to health care for homeless and marginalized people in Vernon.

British Columbia is a culturally-diverse province and immigrants are vital to economic and cultural development. Recently-arrived immigrants in the Lower Mainland are benefiting from a new clinic that helps them access better health care by addressing language and cultural barriers. This is another example of improving our health-care system through innovative ideas.

New ideas and innovation will help lead to a sustainable health system — one that will be there for our children and grandchildren.



Vibrant, Connected, Environmentally-Sustainable Communities

Living smart starts with the environment. In today's world climate change is a reality. In order to preserve our environment for our children and grandchildren it is necessary to take action. British Columbia legislated an aggressive target of reducing the province's greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent below 2007 levels by 2020. It also requires interim targets be set for 2012 and 2016 by the end of 2008. The Province has formed the Climate Action Team to help reduce British Columbia's greenhouse gas emissions. The team is composed of industry leaders and climate scientists who will recommend the most credible, aggressive and economically viable targets possible for 2012 and 2016.

Climate change is not something that affects British Columbia alone; it is a global problem that requires global action. The Province has joined the Western Regional Climate Action Initiative to partner with other jurisdictions to identify, evaluate and implement ways to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Collaboration is fundamental in combating climate change. The Province has also signed agreements with California, Oregon and Washington State that set out joint action on climate change and Pacific Ocean conservation.

In February 2007 the Province released the BC Energy Plan: which sets us on a path to making our province energy self-sufficient by 2016. New targets for zero-net greenhouse gas emissions have been set, new investments in innovation, and an ambitious target to acquire 50 per cent of B.C. Hydro's incremental resource needs through conservation are detailed in the plan.

Communities want to make a difference in the fight against climate change. In 2007 seven communities received Green Cities awards for their exceptional commitment, leadership and action in a range of environmental sustainability issues. Communities didn't stop there, however. As of March 31st 2008, 106 local governments have signed the Climate Action Charter, pledging to become carbon neutral by 2012.

2008 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia. Cities and towns around the province have spent much time and effort getting ready for the BC150 celebrations. $20 million was allocated to communities to build Spirit Squares that reflect the diversity of each community's citizens, their culture, their First Nations heritage and their local history. As of March 31st, 2008, 50 Spirit Squares in communities around the province are being created to provide a place where citizens can interact, be entertained and gather for community celebrations.

The $40-million LocalMotion Fund was created to help get people out of their vehicles and get them moving on their own steam. It helps communities build greener, more activity-friendly environments, helping people make healthier, greener choices. In 2007, $20 million was approved for projects in 28 communities across British Columbia.

Transportation and buildings are significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The new $14-billion Transit Plan will double transit ridership by 2010 by giving increased choice to people around the province with new fleets, and green technology. In 2007 the Province committed $150 million towards rapid bus service over the Port Mann Bridge. This will benefit more than 21,000 commuters daily.

In order to reduce the environmental impact of buildings, the Province has committed to greening the B.C. Building code. This will improve the energy efficiency and water efficiency of buildings. The new green requirements come into effect in September of 2008.

The Province has committed to having all new government buildings being built to a minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standard or equivalent. Additionally, all ministries and Crown agencies must be carbon neutral by 2010.

Housing

Shelter is a fundamental need in order to lead a healthy and productive life. Through the Housing Matters Strategy the Province is investing in housing and shelter programs to ensure that British Columbians have affordable housing choices. Under the Provincial Homeless initiative, more than 4,000 housing units have been committed to across the province and 19 single-room-occupancy hotels were acquired in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster. Almost all emergency shelters will now be open 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week to provide people with the services they need. In addition, outreach services have been expanded to more than 40 communities across the province to connect homeless people to housing and support services.

The Province and the cities of Vancouver, Surrey, Kelowna, and Victoria have come together to develop a plan to expedite the purchase or construction of social and supportive housing units. The Province has committed to paying the predevelopment costs of the units as part of $41 million committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between the Province and the cities that will see the addition of over 1,600 new supportive housing units.

Canada's Pacific Gateway

British Columbia is North America's natural gateway to the marketplaces of the Asia-Pacific. This translates into a great potential for economic benefits for British Columbians through increased trade and employment opportunities. A key component on becoming Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway is ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to support it.

In August, 2007 the $300-million Park Bridge in the Kicking Horse Canyon was opened. This route carries over 9,000 vehicles a day during the summer, and traffic is expected to increase 50 per cent over the next 25 years. Twenty-four per cent is heavy truck traffic – five times the provincial average. The $170-million Fairview Container Terminal was opened in Prince Rupert, a major factor in making British Columbia the fastest route for Asian manufacturers to access the lucrative U.S. mid-west market. The Vancouver International Airport has opened their $200-million international terminal expansion, and stronger air connections between B.C. and the Asia-Pacific have been established. Further infrastructure improvements include: a $60-million project along Roberts Bank Rail corridor, through a multi-stakeholder agreement among all levels of government, rail and port companies; CN Railway announced 65 new locomotives and the opening of a $20-million intermodal distribution centre in Prince George; and a $375-million investment in Centerm and Vanterm terminal upgrades in Vancouver.

Asia Pacific Initiative

Since the Asia Pacific Initiative (API) document was released in April 2007, several significant projects have been executed by the Province to advance British Columbia's goal of being recognized internationally as North America's capital for Asia Pacific commerce and culture.

The API provides the long-term strategic framework that identifies immediate actions B.C. must take under five strategic priority areas:

- Establish global branding and marketing.
- Enhanced business relationships for better trade and investment opportunities.
- Build gateway infrastructure.
- Create workforce capacity to accommodate robust economic growth.
- Promote B.C. as an Asia Pacific services destination.

Under the accompanying API Master Action Plan, over 100 projects are being advanced to maximize economic opportunities presented in the region. Through these projects, B.C. is working to become the premier destination for education, tourism and culture, trade and immigration by the Asia Pacific. In 2007, 25 Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the Province and Asia Pacific regions in areas such as twinning, clean energy, investment and trade, education and emergency management. Major milestones were also achieved in international marketing, overseas representation and provincial workforce initiatives. An unprecedented year concluded with a successful trade mission led by the Premier to seven cities in China and India, two of the world's fastest growing economies.

API-related projects continue to be implemented by ministries, and concrete progress has been made toward achieving B.C.'s API goals of 255,000 in jobs gained and $76 billion in annual trade gain by 2020.

Competitiveness and Productivity

In 2007, British Columbia's economy continued its strong performance. The province's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew an estimated 3.1 per cent in 2007. Employment in British Columbia grew faster than the province's labour force in 2007, pushing the annual unemployment rate down 0.6 percentage points to 4.2 per cent. This was the lowest annual rate of unemployment in more than 30 years.

Giving children a good start in their early years is important to their development as contributing members of society. To date, 86 StrongStart centres have been opened around the province, with a further 314 expected in the next two years, for a total of 400 by 2010. These centres work with parents, caregivers, and pre-school children to give young children a strong foundation on which to build for when they enter school.

All students in British Columbia with a B average or higher now have access to undergraduate programs in public post-secondary institutions around the province. By 2010 the Province will fund more than 30,000 additional seats in the public post-secondary system, including seats to address labour market shortages for skilled trades, health care workers, for aboriginal learners and graduate seats. This expansion will ensure that highly-qualified personnel are available to feed our knowledge-based economy.

Growing knowledge in British Columbia will be important in the face of a knowledge-based economy. There is a strong link between the post-secondary education system and a strong economy. $41.2 million was deposited into the Children's Education Fund in 2007. Each child born after January 1st, 2007 will have $1,000 invested for them to attend post-secondary facilities. They will be able to use that money to get the skills they need to help them prosper as citizens and to help them become contributing members of society.

Immigration is part of the solution for addressing skills shortages in British Columbia. In 2007 the Province announced WelcomeBC, an immigration initiative that helps immigrants moving to B.C. access services under one umbrella so that they are better able to adapt to life in their new communities. The Provincial Nominee Program is an example of how the Province is addressing the need to bring skilled immigrants into British Columbia to help fill the increasing gap in skilled workers.

The British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program offers accelerated immigration for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in British Columbia and become permanent residents of Canada. Changes to the program in 2007 will make it easier for business immigrants to start new business ventures, giving B.C. a competitive advantage in the drive for new entrepreneurial talent.

Performance measures for great goals

GOAL 1 – Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
SCHOOL READINESS • % Kindergarten students entering school "ready to learn"	72.1% (2004/05 restated	70.4%	85%
STUDENT LITERACY • Program for International Student Assessment Ranking	2ND in Canada 3rd internationally	3RD in Canada 6th internationally	1ST in Canada Improve internationally
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	79% (2004/05)	80% (2006/07)	85%
POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION	56% (2004) Canadian Average 57%	58.5% (2007) Canadian average 60.3%	Exceed Canadian Average

GOAL 2 - Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	81 yrs (2004)	81.4 yrs (2006) Highest in Canada	>81 yrs
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS • More than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day	58.1% (2003)	57.7% (2005) 1st in Canada	73%
BRITISH COLUMBIANS WHO ARE OVERWEIGHT	42.3% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	45.2% (2005) Lowest in Canada	32%
TOBACCO USE	15% Lowest % in Canada (2003)	16% (2006) Lowest % in Canada	13%

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GOAL 3 - Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, those with special needs, children at risk and seniors	Baseline	Current Status	2015 2016 Target
DISABLED BRITISH COLUMBIANS WHO ARE WORKING • Of those who wish to work	44% (2001) Canadian 41.5%	To be updated in the Summer of 2008	56%
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN AN AGE APPROPRIATE GRADE	86% (2005)	87% (2006)	95%
BRITISH COLUMBIA SENIORS LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS • Seniors 75 or older in health care or related facilities	10.3% (2001) 2ND lowest in Canada	10% Lowest in Canada	Maintain Canadian 2nd place rank.

GOAL 4 - Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none	Baseline	Current Status	2015 2016 Target
AVERAGE FINE PARTICULATE CONCENTRATION IN MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS	Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2004)	Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2006)	Lowest in Canada
* PROVINCE WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Data will be available for use in 2009.		33% below 2007 levels by 2020 2012 and 2016 targets TBD
WATER QUALITY • % Of 30 B.C. water bodies with stable or improving trends	96% (2004/05)	96% (2006/07)	>96%

GOAL 5 - Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada	Baseline	Current Status	2015 2016 Target
NUMBER OF NEW JOBS PER CAPITA	1ST (2005)	2ND (2007)	1ST

* 2012 and 2016 interim targets are currently under development by the Climate Action Team, who will be making their recommendations in July, 2008.

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GOAL 4 - Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none	Baseline	Current Status	2015/2016 Target
AVERAGE FINE PARTICULATE CONCENTRATION IN MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS	Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2004)	Vancouver is 2ND lowest in Canada (2006)	Lowest in Canada
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